

plication of our population is more owing to a diminished mortality than to an increased number of births, or to any accessions from emigration. (o) This, however, is only a general conclusion deducible from the several enumerations of the inhabitants of the whole Union, which might not be alike applicable to every state, or even to any larger division of the confederacy. But it is a general conclusion which will be found to be mainly corroborated by a comparison of some of the principal causes affecting human life here, with those of a similar nature in other countries. Among citizens our government admits of no political distinctions; there are no aristocratic or religious classes hanging as a dead weight upon the rest of the community. There being fewer drones, and a larger proportion of active producers, the necessities and comforts of life are more abundant, and more generally and equally diffused here than in any of the European nations. In addition to which the soil of our country being more fertile, and a greater proportion of it fit for cultivation, than that of Europe, the means of subsistence may be obtained here in larger measures with less labour than there; insomuch so, that no one has yet ventured to predict when our population will be so numerous as to have its further increase checked by the want of food. (p)

In the year 1751, it was estimated, that there were upwards of one million of English souls within the territory of the then colonies, afterwards thirteen United States, although it was thought, that scarce eighty thousand had been brought over sea. (q) In the year 1775, the population of all the United States was estimated to be about two millions and an half; (r) and by the first census, taken in the year 1790, the Union was found to contain a population of three millions nine hundred and twenty-one thousand three hundred and twenty-six. Compared with the second and third enumerations it was calculated, that the population doubled in a term of less than twenty-three years, while it appeared from the most authentic information, that a duplication of the population of Great Britain would not take place in less than eighty years. (s)

But however desirable it may be to obtain correctly formed tables of the expectation of life, as a means of estimating the value

---

(o) 2 Price Obser. 51; 1 Malthus Popu. 386.—(p) Darby's View U. States, 434; Seybert Stat. Ann. 51, 52; 2 Sparks' Franklin's Works, 311; 2 Malthus Popu. 53.—(q) Spark's Franklin's Works, 319.—(r) Seybert Stat. Ann. 17; 1 Tuck. Life of Jefferson, 207; 1 Madison Papers, 431.—(s) Seybert Stat. Ann. 25, 27; 2 Malthus Pop. 525; Darby's View U. S. 434.